

Book Reviews

and practice, as Margaret Pelling asserts, but on several issues theory was vital, namely quarantine and the separation of the sick from the healthy, especially in hospitals. The relationship of the work of the leading medical theoreticians analysed here, to other practitioners, to politicians, and to public opinion needs further examination. This book not only makes that task easier but makes an important contribution to the history of medical thought.

HANS-REINER SIMON, *Die Bibliographie der Biologie. Eine analytische Darstellung unter wissenschaftshistorischen und informationstheoretischen Gesichtspunkten*, Stuttgart, Anton Hiersemann, 1977, 8vo, pp. x, 315, DM.150.

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Potential users of Dr. Simon's book should pay attention to his sub-title if they are to escape the shock of the unexpected. This is no gentle, humane narrative of the rise and progress of the enumerative bibliography of science, such as may be found in the writings of Estelle Brodman and John Fulton. Much of the book is strictly for men, rather than boys; men, moreover, with more than the usual dash of numeracy.

There is a useful historical survey of the bibliography of biology containing familiar enough material, but analysed and arranged in ways not to be found elsewhere. One example, plucked at random from the section on periodical bibliography, is the thirty-six-page alphabetical subject index to *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* (1835–1927), complete with details of authors, date of contribution, volume, series, part, and page numbers. Inaccessibility of the original forbids a check, but if Dr. Simon has it all correct it will be a minor miracle.

A good half of the book is concerned with the stern and somewhat arid stuff of information theory and bibliometry. Study of the ways in which the movement of scientific information may be inferred from science's literature received its best-known, and fairly non-technical, treatment in Derek De Solla Price's *Big science, little science* (1963). Matters have darkened since then and this section of Dr. Simon's book is best avoided except by readers with basic statistical skills.

Der Bibliographie der Biologie will receive its peer reviews in the technical journals. For the rest of us the book will be occasionally useful, wholly admirable, but unlovable.

ARTHUR E. IMHOF (editor), *Biologie des Menschen in der Geschichte: Beiträge zur Socialgeschichte der Neuzeit aus Frankreich und Skandinavien*, Stuttgart, Frommann-Holzboog, 1978, 8vo, pp. 421, [no price stated].

This collection of essays edited by A. E. Imhof bears the same title in German as a recent American volume edited by R. Forster and O. Ranum (*Biology of man in history*, Johns Hopkins Press, 1975). Both are selections from an exciting area of historical investigation associated most intimately with the French journal *Annales, Économies, Sociétés, Civilisations*. All of the essays in the Forster-Ranum collection come from *Annales*, and many in Imhof's volume do. Most of the authors will be familiar to anyone interested in this topic; they include M.D. Grmek, E. Le Roy